

THE
A P P E A L
O F
Madame La T---
T O
The P U B L I C K.

Being a short
Account of her Life and Amours.

Written by HERSELF.



L O N D O N :
Printed for T. PARIS, at the *Royal-Exchange*. 1741.
(Price Six-pence.)

Vet. A 4 e. 757(7)

181. from Dr. R. W. Chapman.

THE
APPENDIX
OF

Madame La Fayette

TO
THE PUBLIC

Being a short
Account of her Life and Actions.



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(3)



THE
A P P E A L
O F

Madame Le T- - - .

IT is with no small Concern that I have heard that my withdrawing myself has laid me under the Censure of the Publick ; this has compell'd me to

acquaint them with the Motives for my Retreat, that I may efface those Calumnies to which my Conduct has given Rise.

My Elopement from my Husband, and the being too susceptible of the most tender Passion of the Soul, are the two chief Points of the Charge brought against me : But I entreat for a few Minutes a favourable Hearing of the Publick, flattering myself, that when they are acquainted with the Reasons of my Procedure I shall be justified in their Opinion.

To the End they may be capable of forming a more solid Judgment, I shall give a faithful and succinct Account of my Life, from the Age of Sixteen to the present Time ; and if I do therein advance
any

any thing which is not entirely conformable to Truth, I am content to submit to the Censure of the Publick.

BEFORE I enter upon this, I must desire Mr. *Le T*—— to excuse me, if in the Sequel I mention him in Terms which will not be greatly to his Credit; I assure him 'tis not by way of Reprisal, or from any Resentment: but it is my own Justification, which obliges me to have Regard to nothing but the very Truth itself.

As my Family is pretty well known, I shall say but little on that Head; what I advance shall be with all possible Modesty; and also I entreat them not to be offended, if what I am under a Necessity of saying, is not altogether to their Advantage.

HARDLY

HARDLY had I attain'd to my Sixteenth Year, when my opening Beauty attracted a Number of Admirers; but my Heart was a Stranger to, no way sensible of Love, and I too young for Reflection. The tender Things said to me flatter'd alone my Vanity, and the Assiduities of my Lovers made no Impression on me.

I enjoy'd this happy State of Indifference under my Mother's Roof, to the fatal Moment of my Marriage. A Moment indeed fatal to me! for 'twas that proved the Destruction of my Peace.

MR. *Le T*——, a young Man, destitute of Fortune and Interest, whose Person is as mean and obscure as his Family, enter'd the List of my Lovers, and demanded me in Marriage, not from any Passion for
my

my Person, for Love was never his Foible; but from a View of raising himself in the World, to which he thought I might greatly conduce, as he esteem'd me a very proper Instrument, exclusive of my Fortune: In a Word, he found Means to insinuate himself into the good Graces of a Person (a), who had so great an Ascendant over my Mother, that his Will was to her a Decree irrevocable, and I was made the Victim of Mr. *Le T——*'s Fortune.

THE Grief I conceiv'd at being compell'd to marry him, contrary to my Inclinations, gave Rise to certain Reflections I then made; and some secret Impulses gave ground to flatter my self that I had noble Blood in my Veins. I was confirm'd in this Opinion by what

(a) *S——l B——d.*

what I had heard with regard to my (*b*) Grandmother, to whom the greatest in the Kingdom had paid the most tender and most submissive Homage. This made me conceive a thorough Aversion for Mr. *Le T*—, who, wholly attached to the raising his Fortune, made me sensible of his Indifference only; which Treatment, I own, touch'd me to the Quick; and if I added to my Aversion the highest Contempt of his Person, he must look upon himself as the sole Cause of the Consequences attending both: For had he shewn me any Tenderness, or even Complaisance, he might have made some Amends for the Meanness of his Figure, and have gain'd, perhaps my Affection, at least my Esteem.

Not.

(*b*) Madame *D*— *E*—, an Actress. who had an Intrigue with a Prince —.

NOTWITHSTANDING my Marriage I continued at my Mother's, where daily assembled a considerable Number of Persons of the first Rank and Distinction in *Paris*; some drawn by View of Interest, press'd thither to pay a servile Homage to the Minion of Fortune (*c*); and others were allured by mine and my Sister's feeble Charms.

AFTER my Marriage, every one of my Admirers made me his respective Declaration of Love; in a Word, the Figure of Mr. *Le T——*'s Person, and the Indifference with which he behaved towards me, flatter'd them with Hopes of certain Success; and the only Question seem'd to be, who would obtain the Preference.

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(*c*) *S——l B——d,*

I held out for some Time; but Love appear'd, and exerting his Power, made me sensible, that without him, to whom alone my Mother and Family were indebted for their Fortune, I could not be happy; in a Word, that I ought to make a Choice and surrender. Love was obey'd.

A young Duke (*d*) obtain'd the Preference; he was of an affable, sweet Temper, extremely well-bred, agreeable in his Person; and the substantial Proofs he gave, convinc'd me of the Sincerity of his Passion. Our mutual Tendernefs was of some Years Duration, and had still continued, had I not been deprived of him by Death. I must acknowledge his Loss was a severe Affliction to me, and my Grief such, that

(*d*) Duke *D'A*——.

I found no Consolation, but in cherishing the Fruit of our reciprocal Love.

MR. *Le T*—— could not possibly be ignorant of this young Nobleman's Affection for me ; his Affiduities, and the Return my Gratitude made him ; yet so far was he from finding the least Fault on this Account, that he was concern'd for his Death. Should any enquire a Reason for his being so pacifick, I answer, that Mr. *Le T*—— was at that Time but in indifferent Circumstances.

TIME got the better of my Grief for the Loss of my Lover, and I suffer'd myself to be touch'd by the assiduous Addresses of another Duke (*e*), remarkable for the Beauty of his Person : However, the Pleasure

(*e*) Duke *de T*——.

sure I received from this second Conquest, was greatly short of that I experienc'd by my first, Love having less Share in this latter than Vanity. I retain'd notwithstanding this young Nobleman Captive, of which Mr. *Le T*—— was as ignorant as of my first Engagement.

THE War being at length declared, my Gallant deserted the Banners of *Cupid* to enlist under those of *Mars* in *Italy*. Our Separation drew Tears from neither Side; his Vanity was satisfied. Alas! How wretched had I been, if my Tenderness for him had equall'd that I was sensible of for my first Lover! How great must have been my Grief, to have parted with the Object of my warmest Affections! And what Anguish of Mind must I have suffer'd for the Time his Courage expos'd him to the greatest Dangers!

MR.

MR. *Le T*—— also set out for *Italy*, not in Quest of Danger, but of Wealth. Before his Departure he gave me a Writing, in which he declared himself separated from, and leaving me at full Liberty to live where-ever I thought proper. This Bill of Divorce is worthy of some Consideration.

THUS deprived of my Husband and Lover, I continued at my Mother's, with a Resolution of never more entering into any Engagement: But alas! this Resolution was but of short Duration, I found that Love had a despotick Power over me; and that (however involuntary) he compell'd my Obedience. The Duke of ——, at his Return from *England* was introduced to my Mother's House, where he
was

was received with all the Deference and Politeness due to his Quality, and to a Stranger. By his frequent Visits, and particular addressing to me, I easily perceived that I was not indifferent to him. I own this affected me. In a Word, he was so indefatigable in his Pursuit, that I could not hold out long against his insinuating and polite Address; but especially against a Person so amiably form'd. I lov'd; and it was not long before our mutual Wishes were compleated, and we united by an ardent and reciprocal Passion. We had for some time enjoy'd the most exquisite Pleasures, without the least Jealousy on either Side to disturb our Happiness: But at length it was interrupted by the Return of Mr. *La T——*.

HE returned to *Paris* on the Conclusion of the War, and brought with him from *Italy*, Wealth and Jealousy. He, who was formerly tractable and pacifick, with regard to my Lovers, was become suspicious and outrageous on the slightest Appearances ; and in seeing the Duke, I was obliged to use the greatest Precaution.

LOVE was not the Source of his Jealousy ; I was as indifferent to him as ever ; but his Riches had puff'd him up with Pride, and Pride begot Jealousy. Being thoroughly vers'd in the Customs of *Italy*, he seldom spoke to me without the mention of a Poniard or Pistol ; and being in constant Uneasiness and Suspicion, the least Noise fetch'd him

him out of his Apartment, arm'd cap-à-pie ; but so great was his Cowardice, that the first Object he saw alarm'd his Fears, and threw him into a Tremor.

THIS Jealousy gave me great Perplexity ; however I comforted myself with Hopes that he might be laugh'd out of it, and resume his former pacifick Temper : But this was not the only Uneasiness I was to suffer ; Ambition leagu'd with Jealousy came to disquiet that reciprocal Affection which had united the Duke and me.

A SON in Law of a certain Prime Minister came to *Paris*, and, in his Visits to the Duke, took occasion to represent to him, that a Person of his Quality ought to aspire to publick Honours and
 Posts

Posts at Court; to attain which it was expedient for him to return to *England*, where his Presence was desired: In a Word, his Persuasions prevailed on the Duke, who resolved on his immediate Return.



HIS Grace, under Pretence of settling his Affairs, acquainted me with his Design to leave *France*; assuring me at the same Time, that he should be absent but a short Space. The Perplexity he was in, and some Tears which he could not restrain, gave me to understand, that our Separation was to be eternal. The News deprived me of Speech and Reason; my Despair overpower'd my Senses, and I fainted. Being recover'd from the Swoon, with Eyes drown'd in

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Tears,

Tears, I told him, *that, divided from him, Death would be preferable to Life, and beg'd as an Act of Compassion, I might receive from his Hand that Relief.* In short, my Grief and Tears melted the Duke, who to console me, *vow'd he would never cease to love, and never would be parted from me.*

NOTWITHSTANDING the Assurances the Duke gave me, the remaining Part of that Night I was so greatly alarm'd, that I could take no Rest; so much was I overwhelm'd with Grief and Trouble.

HIS Grace return'd Home, and declared he had altered his Mind, and would not go to *England.* This greatly startled those who
were

were solicitous for his leaving *France* ; and as they were satisfied it was I who had wrought this Change, the next Day a Person (f) zealous for the Duke's Interest made me a Visit.

THIS Gentleman told me, that his Attachment for the Duke obliged him to represent to me the Injury he might receive by a longer Residence in *France* ; that both his Affairs and his Duty exacted his Return to *England* ; and that if I had a real Affection for the Duke, I ought rather to hasten than retard his Departure ; that by the former Procedure I might assure myself of his Return ; by the latter I might lose him for ever ; for the Court of *England* would take such

(f) Mr. H———, his Governor.

such Methods as would compell his Return ; but if our Separation was so intollerable to me, nothing was more easy than my following him ; the Means for which, and the Duke's Approbation of it, he took upon himself to provide and obtain. In a Word, he added such cogent Reasons, that he got the better of my Reluctance to the taking such a Step ; and I promis'd to press the Duke's Departure, on condition of my following him. That Night his Grace came according to Custom, to pay me a Visit. I proposed to him his leaving France, and my accompanying him. He immediately came into it, assuring me, that if his Fear of giving Offence had not been an Obstacle, he should himself have made me the very Proposal.

IN

IN consequence of this Resolution, the necessary Preparations were made for our Departure, and every thing being ready, the Duke set out for *England*, and I, nine Days after for *Holland*. The Question now to be decided is, Whether I have done well or ill.

I acknowledge I have quitted Mr. *Le T——*, but not my Husband : For I defy him to say he ever exacted of me certain Duties to which the Matrimonial Laws subject our Sex. Consequently, the Complaints he makes of me are groundless ; for I have not carried with me what he married, namely, my Fortune ; and as he has made his own, I am now of no farther Use to him.

It

It must be allow'd he is a little anxious for his Character ; since, if I am his Wife, his Prosecution of me tends only to publish his Shame to the World, and the Decree he may obtain against me will be no Reparation of his Honour.

IN answer to the Charge of my being too susceptible of Love, I say, that if it is criminal in others, it cannot be accounted a Crime in me; Love is an hereditary Venom in a Family : My Aunt, my Cousin, my Mother, my Sisters, have given irrefragable Proofs of this. The Poison was transmitted to them as well as to me, from my Grandmother, and she derived it from her Ancestors; consequently to reproach our Lineage on this Account, is doing
us

us Injury ; since a Propensity to Love was implanted in our Hearts before we had seen the Light.

IT is not through Neglect or Fear of Censure that I have omitted mentioning other amorous Intrigues, in which I was engaged ; but I have forborn to do it, as they are of no Use to my Justification, and of no Consequence to to the Publick. Should I be reproach'd with them, I plead the Power of Love and Weakness of my Sex ! And to speak out, a Woman must have a surprising Coldness in Nature, who has the Power to resist at some critical Times and Opportunities.

I may by some be blamed for having made Choice of a Foreigner preferable to a *Frenchman* ; but be-

before they pass a final Sentence, I beg they would reflect, that if for some Time the parting with a Wife for a Mistress was in Vogue among the Quality, it is now the Mode to throw off both the one and the other, without Distinction ; had that proved my Fortune, I must have been obliged to have taken up with a Collector of the Customs. No, I ever had a Way of Thinking too elevated to fall so low ; and I rather chose to retire to a Country where the fair Sex are in full Possession of their native Rights.

'Tis not impossible but Mr. *Le T*—— may exclaim against me for having left my Son upon his Hands. Had I followed my own Inclinations, I should have

have taken him with me : But this I durst not do, fearing some Accident might befall him, which would hereafter bring the Reproach of his Father's Family upon me ; for in its present Situation, he and his Brother are the only Hopes of its not being extinguished. Mr. *LeT*—ought to thank me for leaving the Child with him, as the Care of him will conciliate the Favour of that illustrious House : But however, if my Son is a Burthen, either to him or his own Family, let him be sent to me in *England* ; his Great-Grand-Father, at the Head of the Armies of *France*, render'd too many Services to the *English*, to doubt his being well received by that Nation.

D

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I HAVE nothing more to add, but a solemn Declaration, that Interest was not the Motive of my leaving *France*; it was not the Duke of ———'s Estate that allured me; but the tender and engaging Lover, who has full and sole Possession of my Heart; 'tis whom I idolize, that I follow.

I HAVE laid a fair State of Matters of Fact before the Publick; and 'tis they who are now to judge: And I previously promise to submit to the Sentence they shall pronounce. To satisfy the Inquisitive, I acquaint them that I am at this present in *Holland*, where I wait the Return of the ——— of G—— B——, to throw myself at his Feet,

Feet, implore his Protection, and obtain his Permission to go to *England*. This Step, I think, in Point of Good-breeding is necessary to be taken: But besides, I very well know the Interest a certain Person, in that of my Mother, has acquired by his Reputation with all the crown'd Heads of *Europe*; and fearing that in his first Transports of Resentment he may have done me ill Offices with the —— of *England*, I am determined to throw myself in the Way of that Prince, to undeceive him in what sinister Insinuations that Person (b) may have made with Regard to my Conduct.

I F

(b) S—— l B—— d.

IF heretofore a *French* Lady has given Birth to *English* Dukes, it cannot be but to my Honour to copy after her Example; and when that happy Period arrives, I shall have the Satisfaction of perpetuating two noble Families, one in *France*, and one in *England*, which without me had run the Hazard of being extinguished.

IF this Apology should fall into the Hands of Mr. *Le T——*, I hope, for his Sake, it may make him turn his Eyes upon himself, and put an End to his ridiculous Prosecutions. 'Tis the wisest Course he can take; for, according to the Proverb, *The shortest Follies are the least dangerous*. I have no other Advice to give him, except
this,

(29)

this, not to marry again; for
upon my Word, he is no Man
for a Wife, and much less for
a Mistrefs.

FINIS.



(22)

is not to marry again; for
you my Word, he is no Man
or a Wife, and much less for
Mistress.

FINIS



